

HON. MICHAEL P. FORBES

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 8, 2000

Mr. FORBES. Mr. Speaker, it gives me great pleasure to stand before you today to honor the 90th Anniversary of the Boy Scouts of America. The organization was first established on February 8, 1910 and has since then been dedicated to the growth and maturity of young adults in America. It has given youth the opportunity to have a healthy start in life by allowing them to participate in programs dedicated to building character, developing personal fitness, and raising community service awareness. For ninety years, the Boy Scouts of America have continually renewed their commitment by nurturing our children into young adults that stand for values of honesty, integrity, and respect.

We must not forget those strong energetic individuals that have made the Boy Scouts what it is today. The organization would not be in existence if it were not for co-founders Daniel Carter Beard, Ernest Thompson Seton, William D. Boyce, and James E. West. All of these men heavily influenced the early development of the Boy Scouts. Daniel Carter Beard, remembered for his buckskin outfits, was a pioneer of the Boy Scouts who merged his own boys' organization with the Boy Scouts of America. Ernest Thompson Seton, the first Chief Scout, wrote numerous volumes on Scouting. Also worth mentioning is William D. Boyce, who incorporated the Boys Scouts of America soon after being inspired by a scout in Europe. Lastly, there was James E. West, who was the first Chief Scout Executive and also an inspiration to us all. Although orphaned and physically handicapped, Mr. West had the perseverance to graduate from law school and became a successful attorney. This same determination helped build Scouting into the largest and most effective youth organization in the world. When he retired in 1943, Mr. West was recognized throughout the country as the true architect of the Boy Scouts of America. All these great men contributed to making a dream into reality.

Presently over 5 million Americans are members in the Boy Scouts of America. Scouts grow up to become strong leaders with strong values. Their strong leadership can be seen even in the 106th Congress, where more than half of the Members of Congress have participated in Scouting.

The Boy Scouts of America have also been continually dedicated to community service. I commend the organization for volunteering countless hours in their communities, especially in Suffolk County, New York, where programs such as toy drives for the disadvantaged and food collection for the hungry improve the quality of life for thousands of people. The tradition of serving the community has been emphasized throughout the last ninety years, and I hope to see it continue.

Once again, congratulations to the Boy Scouts of America. They are truly an asset to our great country and I applaud them for all they have done. I wish them many more years of growth and success.

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

**HONORING THE CONTRIBUTIONS
OF CATHOLIC SCHOOLS**

SPEECH OF

HON. SILVESTRE REYES

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 1, 2000

Mr. REYES. Mr. Speaker, I too rise in strong support of House Resolution 409 honoring the Catholic Schools of America for their invaluable contribution to the education of our children. I understand it is the first time such a resolution has been before the House. I would like to join my House colleagues in extolling the virtues of Catholic educational institutions that have provided consistently excellent alternatives to our public school system—even though I am a product of our public schools.

I am proud to represent and participate in a Catholic society as rich in culture and heritage as El Paso's. Many products of the Catholic education system can be found at all levels of society today, including Sister Elizabeth Anne Swartz, Superintendent of the Diocese Schools in El Paso, whom I would like to commend for the fine job she is doing. I would also like to take a moment to congratulate Bishop Armando X. Ochoa on the great job he is doing, too!

In my district, there are 13 Diocese schools which support 4,607 students and 300 educators. Most Diocese schools posted enrollment increases this year. One school, Father Yermo Elementary School, is celebrating its 40th year. Another, Our Lady of Mount Carmel, is celebrating its 81st year.

Last Saturday night, I was privileged to attend an event recognizing the supporters of Catholic education in El Paso. The organizers of this year's "Supporters of Catholic Education in the El Paso Diocese," or SEED, Awards were: Marissa Alvarado; Elvia Borrego; Sr. Kathleen Corbett, SL; Debra Fraire; Bobbie Hernandez; the Honorable Sue Kurita; Manny Lopez; Carmen Montes; Bertha Schachtsneider; Sr. Elizabeth Anne Swartz, SSND; Olga Torres; Alfred Torres; and Luis Villalobos. I congratulate each and every one of them for all the hard work they put into making this event a great success.

I would also like to recognize the members of the Diocesan Board of Education: Sister Elizabeth Anne Swartz, SSND, Superintendent; Manny Lopez, President; Adriana Sierra-Loya, Vice-President; Marie Doyle; the Honorable Martha "Sue" Kurita; Robert Lopez; Rev. Marcus McFadin; Mary Alice Szostek; Rev. Msgr. Francis J. Smith; and Luis Villalobos.

I would like to congratulate the winners of the 2000 SEED awards. From Blessed Sacrament, Best Faculty/Staff; Juanita Reyes; Best Benefactor/Supporter: Elena Aguirre; Best Volunteer: Kathy Cortez; and Best Alumni: James Towle. From Cathedral High School, Best Faculty/Staff; Luz Ulrickson; Best Benefactor/Supporter: Adrian Martinez; Best Volunteer: Menira De La Fuente; and Best Alumni: Jaime Rivera. From Father Yermo Elementary, Best Faculty/Staff: Rose Chavez. From Father Yermo High School, Best Faculty/Staff: Alfredo Palacio; Best Benefactor/Supporter: Yadro

Lizardo; Best Volunteer: Mary Lou Vega; and Best Alumni: Gladys Saucedo. From Holy Trinity, Best Faculty/Staff: Alena VanHouten; Best Benefactor/Supporter: Mark Smith; Best Volunteer: Jude Hicks; and Best Alumni: Carlos Sanchez. From Loretto Academy, Best Faculty/Staff: Shelly Wilson, Angie Davila, and Gerri Mearns; Best Benefactor/Supporter: Sister Mary Ann Coyle, SL; Best Volunteer: Jesus Marrufo; and Best Alumni: Cindy Manzanares. From Our Lady of Assumption, Best Faculty/Staff: Anne Johnson; Best Benefactor/Supporter: Cynthia Kelley; and Best Volunteer: Edward Martinez. From Our Lady of Mt. Carmel, Best Faculty/Staff: Edward Frias; Best Benefactor/Supporter: Jose Armendariz; Best Volunteer: Dolores Bustamante; and Best Alumni: Pedro Tapia. From St. Joseph's, Best Faculty/Staff: Irma Gemoest; Best Benefactor/Supporter: Eduardo Fuentes; Best Volunteer: Belinda Garcia; and Best Alumni: Luis Villalobos. From St. Patrick's, Best Faculty/Staff: Lee Nunez; Best Benefactor/Supporter: Noe Carreon; Best Volunteer: Richard Flores; and Best Alumni: Msgr. A. Dixon Hartford. From St. Pius X, Best Faculty/Staff: Sister Mary Ljundahl; Best Benefactor/Supporter: Margie Escobedo; Best Volunteer: Roger Razo; and Best Alumni: Patricia Martinez. From St. Raphael, Best Faculty/Staff: Tony Brown; Best Benefactor/Supporter: Bruce Galyan; and Best Volunteer: Frank Lujan. From the Diocese of El Paso, Best Benefactor/Supporter: Bishop Armando X. Ochoa and Sr. Elizabeth Anne Swartz, SSND.

And on one final note, as a representative of a largely Catholic district, I, too, am concerned about the controversy surrounding the selection of a new House Chaplain. The House has never had a Catholic Chaplain. Although a bipartisan committee gave Catholic candidate Timothy O'Brien the majority of "first" rankings, the House leadership was unfortunately under no obligation to follow their rankings. Instead, the House leadership conducted a final round of interviews of the three finalists. The Leadership made their decision based upon these interviews, with House minority leader DICK GEPHARDT voting for Mr. O'Brien and Speaker HASTERT and Majority Leader ARMEY recommending Charles Wright.

I believe this controversy exists, at least in part, because everyone was not clear on how the selection process would work from the outset. Many of my Democratic colleagues and I felt that if the committee had a clear consensus on a candidate, as they did on Father O'Brien, then the leadership would naturally follow. Others argue that the bipartisan committee only functioned to screen candidates, leaving the final determination to the leadership. I bear no ill-tidings toward Reverend Wright; but I believe we have missed an opportunity here, which is unfortunate.

IN MEMORY OF ROBERT BEYKIRCH

HON. IKE SKELTON

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 8, 2000

Mr. SKELTON. Mr. Speaker, it is with deep sadness that I inform the House of the death of Robert (Bob) Beykirch of Sedalia, Missouri.